

Permitting & Assistance Branch Staff Report
New Solid Waste Facilities Permit Central Transfer Station
SWIS No. 49-AA-0404
January 10, 2011

Background Information, Analysis, and Findings:

This report was developed in response to the Sonoma County Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) request for the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Department) concurrence on the issuance of a proposed New Solid Waste Facilities Permit for Central Transfer Station, SWIS No. 49-AA-0404, located in Sonoma County, owned and operated by County of Sonoma Department of Transportation and Public Works. A copy of the proposed permit is attached. This report contains the Permitting & Assistance Branch staff's analysis, findings, and recommendations.

The proposed permit was originally received by CalRecycle on November 10, 2011. A new proposed permit was received by CalRecycle on December 13, 2011. If no action is taken by February 11, 2012, the Department will be deemed to have concurred with the issuance of the proposed new permit.

Proposed Project

The following are the parameters of the proposed project:

	Proposed Permit
Activities	Transfer/Processing Facility
Permitted Area (in acres)	14.4
Permitted Hours/Days of Operation	(Receipt of Refuse/Waste) 7:00am-3:00pm, Monday-Saturday (Ancillary Operations/Facility Operating Hours) 6:00am-6:30pm 7 days/week
Permitted Tons per Operating Day	1,500 tons per day
Permitted Traffic Volume	900 vehicles per day

Findings:

All of the submittals and findings required by Title 27, Section 21685 have been provided and made. Staff has determined that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements have been met to support concurrence. The findings are summarized in table below. The documents on which staff's findings are based have been provided to the Branch Chief with this Staff Report and are permanently maintained in the facility files maintained by the Permitting and Assistance Branch.

CCR Title 27 Sections	Findings	
21685(b)(1) LEA Certified Complete and Correct	The LEA provided the required certification in their permit submittal letter dated November 7, 2011.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable

CCR Title 27 Sections	Findings	
Report of Facility Information		
21685(b)(3) Solid Waste Facilities Permit	The proposed solid waste facilities permit was received by CalRecycle on December 13, 2011.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable
21685 (b)(4)(A) Consistency with Public Resources Code 50001	The LEA in their permit submittal package received on November 10, 2011 provided a finding that the facility is consistent with PRC 50001 and CalRecycle staff in the Jurisdiction and Product Compliance Unit found the facility is identified in the Countywide Siting Element as described in their memo dated November 17, 2011.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable
21685(b)(8) Operations Consistent with State Minimum Standards	WEEB staff in the Inspections and Enforcement Agency Compliance Unit found that the facility was in compliance with all operating and design requirements during an inspection conducted on December 15, 2011. See compliance history below for details.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable
21685(b)(9) LEA CEQA Finding	The LEA provided a finding in their permit submittal package received on November 7, 2011, that the proposed permit is consistent with and supported by the existing CEQA documentation. See details below.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable
21650(g)(5) Public Notice and or Meeting, Comments	The required Public Notice was posted by the LEA at the subject Facility and at the County of Monterey Department of Environmental Health office. A Public Informational meeting for the proposed project was held by the LEA on October 6, 2011	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable
CEQA Determination to Support Responsible Agency's Findings	The Department is a responsible agency under CEQA with respect to this project, a proposed New Solid Waste Facilities Permit. Permits staff has determined that the CEQA record can be used to support the Branch Chief's action on the Proposed New Permit. See details below.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable

Compliance History:

The facility was inspected by WEEB staff in the Inspections and Enforcement Agency Compliance Unit on December 15, 2011. No violations were noted.

The Central Transfer Station is currently permitted as a separate activity under the Central Disposal Site permit. The LEA inspects the Transfer Station on a monthly basis and has not noted any violations in the last five years.

Environmental Analysis

State Law requires compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act either through the preparation, circulation and adoption/certification of an environmental document and mitigation

reporting or monitoring program, or, by determining that the proposal is categorically or statutorily exempt.

The Central Transfer Station, as a function of the Central Landfill, currently operates under Solid Waste Facilities Permit (SWFP) No. 49-AA-0001 from the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA). This permit covers the disposal operations at the landfill and the use of the tipping building at the landfill as a transfer station during the temporary outhauling of waste to out-of-County disposal facilities. The operator proposes to decouple the operation of the Central Transfer Station from the Central Disposal Site into two separate SWFP's. The proposed New Transfer Station Permit will allow outhauling of up to 1,500 tpd when disposal of waste at the landfill is suspended. The proposed new SWFP includes a condition that the permit will have a sunset date of five years out from the date of LEA issuance.

Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Division, acting as Lead Agency, issued a Notice of Categorical Exemption under Section 15301(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines on March 11, 2011.

Staff finds that there are no grounds under CEQA for the Department to prepare a subsequent or supplemental environmental document or assume the role of the Lead Agency for its consideration of the Permit. Staff completed a preliminary review and based on the review recommends that the Department, acting as a Responsible Agency under CEQA, issue a Notice of Categorical Exemption under CEQA Guideline 15301(c).

The administrative record for the decision to be made by the Department includes the administrative record before the LEA, the proposed new SWFP and all of its components and supporting documentation, this staff report, and other documents and materials utilized by the Department in reaching its decision on concurrence in, or objection to, the proposed new SWFP. The custodian of the Department's administrative record is Dona Sturgess, Legal Office, Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, P.O. Box 4025, Sacramento, CA 95812-4025.

Local Issues:

The project document availability, hearings, and associated meetings were extensively noticed consistent with the SWFP requirements. A review from the public process indicates that environmental justice issues were not identified by the surrounding community (Census Tract 100). 2010 Census information indicates that the surrounding population is approximately 87% white, 2.0% black or African American, 0.7% American Indian & Alaska Native, 4.1% Asian, 0.2% Native Hawaiian & other Pacific Islander, and 4.0% "some other race" and 2.0% "two or more races". Approximately 12.0% of the total population described themselves as Hispanic or Latino. 7.0% of the families in the Census Tract were below the poverty level. Staff has not identified any environmental justice issues related to this item. Staff finds the project and permit process to be consistent with Government Code Section 65040.12, as there has been fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the proposed action being recommended above.

Public Comments:

On October 6, 2011, the LEA held an Informational Meeting for both the Proposed Revision to the Central Disposal Site Permit and the Proposed New Permit for the Central Transfer Station. The meeting was held at the Pat Cotati Veterans Memorial Building located at 8505 Park Avenue, Cotati, California. There were 26 attendees at the meeting including members of the public and the LEA as well as the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The following comment pertaining to the Transfer Station was offered during the meeting:

Clarification was requested on the 2,500 tons per day of solid waste being received. The LEA clarified that the facilities receiving a maximum up to 2,500 tons per day and the tonnages for both facilities are not additive. The LEA stated that the site will either be operated as a transfer station or disposal site. When the transfer station is not used for out hauling waste it is operated as a public tipping floor for the disposal site.

The Department provided an opportunity for public comment during the Monthly Public Meetings on November 15 and December 13, 2011 and no public comments were offered. No written comments have been received by either the LEA or CalRecycle.

Department Staff Actions:

Staff has worked with the LEA throughout the permit process by providing comments on permitting documents and attending meetings during the planning phase of the project.